

Community Update

Fairmont Coke Works Superfund Site

This community update was prepared by the Fairmont Coke Works Site Team.

Summer 2021

Project Update for Fairmont Coke Works Superfund Site

This document provides a project update regarding the work outlined in the Spring 2021 community update. Work to complete the final cleanup activities at the Fairmont Coke Works Site is underway. ExxonMobil is designing the final groundwater remedy for the western end of the property. As part of the design process, a small-scale version of the permeable reactive barrier (PRB) treatment system (pilot study) was constructed below ground in the fall 2020 to test construction methods and effectiveness of design options (see pilot study diagram on back page). As explained in the spring issue, the pilot study is being monitored and groundwater samples are being collected. Because the groundwater moves slowly, work related to the pilot study phase will be extended for another 12 months. The information gathered from the pilot study will assist in completing the final design for a full-scale groundwater treatment system.

The work is being performed as part of ExxonMobil’s commitment to conduct final cleanup activities at the site. In 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) and ExxonMobil entered into a Consent Decree in which the company agreed to conduct the work. A December 2017 Record of Decision, issued by the USEPA, outlined the steps required to complete site remediation work.

Timeline

April 2021	Filed Environmental Covenants and amendment to deed restriction with Marion County.
May 2021	Applied organic compost and approved seed mix to site.
Present through Spring 2022	Continue monitoring PRB pilot test performance.
Summer 2021	Install and begin pilot test of magnesium oxide injection trench.
Spring 2022	Complete pilot test and use findings in full-scale remedial design.
2023-2024	Design and construct full-scale treatment system.

Overview of Remaining Work

The following steps are the final response actions necessary to address groundwater at the Fairmont Coke Works Site:

- A full-scale PRB wall will be constructed beneath the ground surface to neutralize acidic conditions and reduce elevated levels of aluminum, iron, manganese and benzene concentrations in groundwater prior to its discharge to a small tributary to the Monongahela River.
- Long-term environmental monitoring will be performed to confirm performance of the selected remedy.

Redevelopment Potential

Approximately 50 acres of this Site are currently available for redevelopment. The site is zoned for industrial and commercial use and subject to land-use restrictions. Available infrastructure includes water, sewer, gas, three-phase electric, voice data and television cable. Future construction activities related to the groundwater remedy outlined above will be limited to the western end of the property.

Redevelopment activities completed on the site property include the West Virginia State Police Troop 1 Headquarters. The WV State Police facility includes a fleet maintenance garage and a communication tower. The West Virginia Army National Guard Armory is adjacent to the site’s southern boundary.

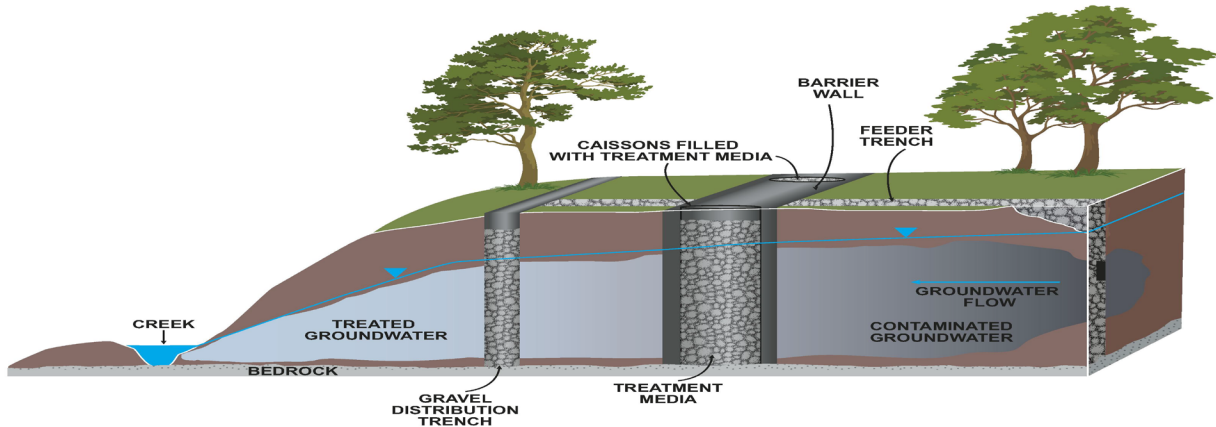
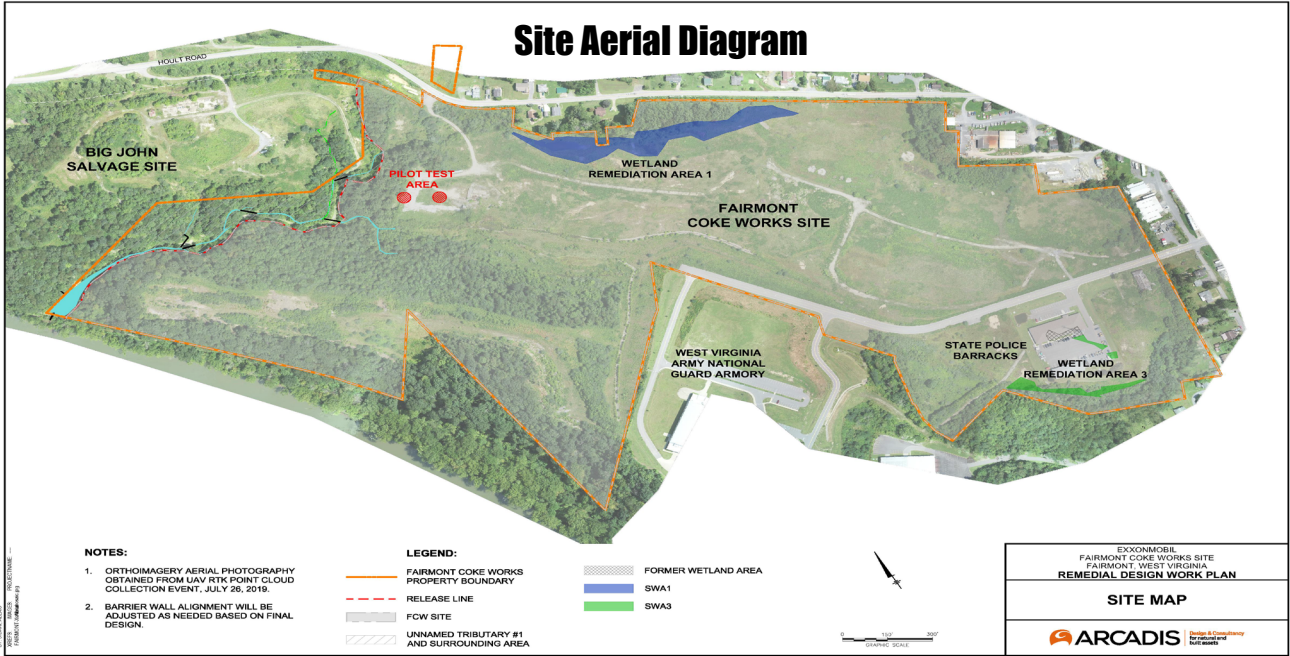


The City of Fairmont, in coordination with the Fairmont Coke Works Site Custodial Trust, is planning to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for site redevelopment in the coming weeks. For more information, please contact City of Fairmont City Manager, Ms. Valerie Means, via email: ymeans@fairmontwv.gov or by phone: (304) 366-6212 ext. 308.

Site History

Built by the U. S. Department of War from 1918 to 1920, Domestic Coke Corporation, a corporate predecessor of ExxonMobil, owned the Site from 1918 to 1948 and operated a byproducts coke plant. Sharon Steel Corporation (Sharon Steel) bought the Site in 1948 and operated a coke-production facility there until 1979, when operations ceased. Sharon Steel filed for protection under federal bankruptcy laws in 1987.

Because of Sharon Steel's bankruptcy and ExxonMobil's prior ownership via a predecessor, on September 17, 1997, ExxonMobil signed a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund") Administrative Order on Consent with USEPA. ExxonMobil purchased the site in July 1998 and began site remediation work by removing asbestos in 1999.



WVDEP/USFWS Public Notice of Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Fairmont Coke Works/Sharon Steel Superfund Site

The Fairmont Coke Works Natural Resource Trustee Council, represented by the WVDEP (on behalf of the State of West Virginia) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (on behalf of the Department of the Interior), has prepared a Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (RP/EA) proposing alternatives for restoring natural resources and compensating for losses resulting from the contamination and subsequent remedial activities at the site. The Draft RP/EA is available for public review at the Marion County Public Library, 321 Monroe Street, Fairmont, WV 26554, and via the web addresses below. Written comments must be emailed or postmarked no later than Monday, July 12, 2021. Please include your name, address, and telephone number with comments and send to Jake McDougal, WVDEP, 2031 Pleasant Valley Road, Fairmont, WV 26554 or Jason.S.McDougal@wv.gov.

For more information on this public notice, please visit:

WVDEP Office of Environmental Remediation News Updates: <https://dep.wv.gov/dlr/oer/newsandupdates/>

Website/document link:

<https://dep.wv.gov/dlr/oer/newsandupdates/Documents/Draft%20Restoration%20Plan%20and%20Environmental%20Assessment.pdf>

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Additional information can be found by visiting:
Marion County Public Library
USEPA Project
321 Monroe Street
Fairmont, WV
304-366-1210
USEPA Project Website
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sharonsteel-fairmont>